



NEWS RELEASE

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BLM Assists County with RV Parking Expansion at McGee Park

McGEE PARK – The Bureau Land Management (BLM) has sold 1.25 acres of federal public land to San Juan County today, to assist with the county's expansion of the RV parking area at McGee Park.

"This is a positive example of agencies working together," said Steve Henke, field manager for the BLM Farmington Field Office. "A BLM goal is to assist in the orderly growth of local communities. By making this land available to the county for RV (recreational vehicle) parking at McGee Park we are doing just that."

BLM and county officials held a brief ceremony Monday morning on the land at the south side of McGee Park near the San Juan River. Thirty RV spaces with complete hook-ups fill the 1.25 acres. Henke signed a patent giving the county legal ownership of the land.

McGee Park has expanded and undergone many improvements in recent years, attracting events from throughout the country. In 2002 and 2003, McGee Park was the site of the National High School Finals Rodeo, which brought in thousands of talented cowboys, cowgirls and their families to San Juan County. The rodeo, which will return to McGee Park in 2008 and 2009, brought millions of dollars to the local economy.

Additional RV spaces will benefit not only the contestants and families of the National High School Finals Rodeo, but also the RV groups who have made plans to hold RV rallies at the facility. More than 1,500 recreational vehicles can be accommodated at McGee Park.

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Plenty of RV spaces also help during the San Juan County Fair, which attracts almost 100,000 people each year. Numerous other events held throughout the year also benefit from an abundance of RV parking.

“This project with the Bureau of Land Management was an opportunity for two governmental agencies to work together and for the BLM to make land available that will greatly enhance the RV area at McGee Park,” said Dr. James Henderson, chairman of the San Juan County Commission.

“The additional land will benefit a lot of events held at McGee Park, and it speaks very well of the BLM to make the land available for the citizens of San Juan County,” Henderson continued. “I commend Mr. Henke for his support of this effort. I’ve always found the BLM to be a good governmental agency to work with.”

The county will acquire the property for \$30,000, the appraised value of the land. The money goes to the national treasury.